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Videos: Hurricane-Weary US Gulf States to See 'Life-Threatening' Conditions From Tropical Storm Beta

by [Gaby Arancibia](#)

The hurricane-embattled US Gulf Coast region is set to undergo yet another round of clashes with Mother Nature this week, as Tropical Storm Beta approaches the US' southern coastline and brings with it "life-threatening" weather conditions.

The US National Hurricane Center (NHC) [stated in its most recent update](#) that the storm is located about 45 miles southeast of Port O'Connor, Texas, and that it has reached sustained maximum wind speeds of 45 mph. At present, Tropical Storm Beta is moving at a pace of 7 mph in a west-northwest direction.

Forecasters anticipate Beta will remain along the Texas coast but will ultimately experience a "decrease in forward motion and a sharp turn to the north and northeast." Storm tracking suggests that Beta "will likely move inland" by late Monday or early Tuesday.

Beta's tropical storm-force winds are forecast to extend up to 175 miles from the storm's center, and the powerful weather event is expected to create a storm surge of between 1 and 4 feet and bring up to 10 inches of rainfall along the US Gulf Coast. In some isolated areas, residents may see upwards of 15 inches of rain.

The NHC has issued storm warnings to areas from Port Aransas, Texas, to Morgan City, Louisiana - a span of nearly 500 miles. Louisiana's Cameron Parish, which was devastated in [late August by Category 4 Hurricane Laura](#), has also been included under the alert.

"Swell generated by a combination of Beta and a cold front over the northern Gulf of Mexico will continue along the coasts of Louisiana and Texas during the next couple of days," the hurricane agency warned in its update. "These swells are likely to cause life-threatening surf and rip current conditions."

As Beta moves inland, the storm may drop an additional 3 to 5 inches of rain in portions of the Ark-La-Tex tri-state region and lower Mississippi Valley through Friday.

Rob Miller, a senior meteorologist with AccuWeather, [told USA Today](#) that the amount of rainfall brought to the US Gulf Coast by Beta would "lead to significant flooding, which may last for several days."

Ahead of Beta's landfall, the storm-induced rising waters have already caused structural damage. Over the weekend, flooding was detected all along the Texas coastline, and even a portion of the 61st Street Fishing Pier in Galveston, Texas, was ripped off as a result of rough surf during high tide.

Beta is the 23rd named storm of the 2020 hurricane season, officially claiming the second letter of the Greek alphabet on Friday.

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Startled Golden Retriever Scared Off by Animatronic Werewolf - Video Club

Terp, a 10-year-old golden retriever, recently got a shock to the system from an animatronic werewolf he and his mom encountered during their trip to a local hardware store in Norristown, Pennsylvania.

Footage obtained by video licensor ViralHog captures Terp immediately taking several steps back after turning into a Halloween decor aisle and coming face-to-face with a growling werewolf bot.

Although it took some encouragement, Terp eventually inspected the werewolf and laid down the law by barking a few times toward the bot.

T-minus 40 days until Halloween. Get ready for spooky season, Terp!

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Photos: US Navy's Shy USS Seawolf Attack Sub Spotted Again in Scotland's River Clyde

The US Navy's ultra-secretive USS Seawolf submarine has been spotted for the second time in as many months, mulling around the North Atlantic.

The US Navy's USS Seawolf attack submarine was spotted off the coast of Scotland on Monday, its second public appearance in the region. The Seawolf is typically very shy, with the [photos the Navy released of it near Tromsø, Norway](#), last month being the first it had released in five years.

The nuclear-powered attack sub was spotted by Iain Cameron, a ship and plane spotter, when the vessel entered Gare Loch on Scotland's west coast on Monday.

Just downriver from Glasgow, the inlet from the River Clyde houses Her Majesty's Naval Base (HMNB) Clyde in the town of Falsane. Clyde is one of the Royal Navy's three operating bases and home to the United Kingdom's Trident nuclear deterrent, so seeing submarines there is not an unusual occurrence.

Washington built just three Seawolf subs, which are made for silent operation for long periods underwater. Accordingly, at least one of them, [the USS Jimmy Carter, has been given special intelligence functions](#). Sputnik reported the attack boat's high profile appearance in Norway might be seen as a message to Russia, which commonly operates in the cold northerly Barents Sea nearby.

However, why the Seawolf has appeared in Scotland now is anybody's guess.

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After Chinese Jets Fly Close to Island, Taiwan Claims Right to 'Self-Defense' But Lacks Legal Basis

by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

After dozens of Chinese aircraft crossed the Taiwan Strait median line, Taipei issued a sharp rebuke, claiming on Monday it has the right to "self-defense and to counterattack." However, the Chinese aircraft committed no illegal act and violated no formal agreement.

On Friday and Saturday, a total of 37 Chinese aircraft crossed the median line in the Taiwan Strait, the narrow body of water that separates the island from the mainland. Taipei scrambled fighters to intercept the group, which contained a mix of H-6 bombers, J-10, J-11 and J-16 fighters and a Y-8 maritime patrol aircraft, [according to Taiwan's Ministry of Defense](#).

US Statesman Visits Island

The incidents came amid an unprecedented event: US Undersecretary of State Keith Krach's [visit to the island, which made him the highest-level US government official](#) to set foot on Taiwan since the US ceased recognizing the Taiwanese government as the legitimate rulers of all of China in 1979.

The Taiwanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs [tweeted upon Krach's departure on Sunday that his visit](#) reflected "the value of late President Lee's contributions to Taiwan democracy, let both sides discuss key issues while strengthening the global partnership." Lee Teng Hui was president of the Republic of China from 1988 until 2000, its first to be directly elected by the voting population. He died on July 30.

However, Beijing took special umbrage at this event. On Monday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin blasted Krach's visit as a political provocation against China and an encouragement of its separatist movement, toward which President Tsai Ing Wen is seen as sympathetic.

"We urge the US to correct its mistakes, stop all official and military contacts with Taiwan, and stop interfering in China's internal affairs and stop words and deeds that undermine China-US relations and peace and stability across the Taiwan Straits," [Wang said, according to the Global Times](#).

Taiwan and the One China Policy

[In a separate Global Times op-ed on Monday](#), the Communist Party of China-connected paper wrote, "Since Tsai took office, she betrayed the 1992 Consensus and created a confrontation between the two sides of the Taiwan Straits. Moreover, amid the US' escalating anti-China campaign, Washington and the DPP [Democratic Progressive Party] have further deepened their collusion."

It is worth noting that the 1992 "One China" Consensus, the informal outcome of several meetings that saw the two sides agree on the principle of Taiwan and China being one country, has been denied to exist by Lee, who was Taiwan's president at the time.

"Taiwan is an inalienable part of China. The PLA's [People's Liberation Army's] relevant exercises are necessary to maintain China's sovereignty and cross-Straits security. We love

peace, but we are increasingly aware that peace is dependent on military strength, and the firm will to use them when necessary,” the Times continued.

“The collusion between the US and the DPP authority is threatening the safety and welfare of all Taiwan people, as well as regional security,” the editors wrote. “It has pushed the island to an impasse. The Tsai authority should either stop playing with fire before it is too late, or prepare for dire consequences.”

Between 1912 and 1949, the Republic of China governed all of China, but after losing the civil war to the communist Red Army, its authority remained solely on the island of Taiwan, which the Red Army was unable to invade. When the People’s Republic of China (PRC) was founded in Beijing that same year, both governments claimed to be the sole legitimate ruler of all of China and required countries engaging in diplomatic relations with them to do the same.

What’s more, [all but 14 of the world’s nations have agreed with Beijing’s position](#) by establishing diplomatic relations. The United States maintains a precarious situation, having switched recognition to Beijing in 1979 but maintaining a backdoor relationship with Taipei, funneling it weapons - typically older models, but sometimes newer tech - sufficient to deter any annexation attempt by the PRC.

Taiwan Strait Mid-Line ‘Does Not Exist’

Taiwan’s Ministry of Defense commonly claims that Chinese aircraft have violated Taiwanese airspace once they cross the median line of the Strait, but Wang rejected this notion during his Monday comments.

“Taiwan is an inseparable part of Chinese territory,” [he told reporters in Beijing, according to Reuters](#). “The so-called mid-line of the Strait does not exist.”

[Further, the Taiwan Sentinel noted in April 2019](#) that the line has no bearing in international law, so “neither side is technically violating the other’s airspace by crossing it.”

“The convention that neither side’s warplanes shall cross the line is nothing more than an informal agreement,” the Sentinel noted. “In other words, if Taiwan were to shoot down a Chinese warplane that crossed the median line, international law would hold China to be in the right and Taiwan to be in the wrong ... Taiwan technically has no legal right to shoot down such aircraft before or unless they have actually entered within 12 miles of the Taiwanese coast itself.”

Best Defense is a Good Offense

[Sputnik reported last week that Washington was preparing](#) to approve its second-largest weapons sale to Taiwan, a \$7 billion deal that includes a slew of weapons systems.

Among them are AGM-84H/K SLAM-ER missiles, a long-range ground strike version of the Harpoon anti-ship missile with a range that can reach across the Strait and inside the Chinese mainland. [The New York Times noted the weapon can be fired](#) from beyond the range of Chinese radar. The deal also reportedly includes MQ-8B Reaper unmanned aerial vehicles, combat drones used by the US to [wage its undeclared wars across several countries](#) in Africa and Asia and which [until very recently were considered too dangerous](#) to be allowed to be sold anywhere else.

These weapons are likely what Taiwan’s military leaders had in mind when promising to “counterattack” any Chinese move.

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US Dow Plummets 509 Points Amid Fears of Pandemic Worsening
by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

US stocks fell dramatically on Monday as investors pulled out of a slew of industries that would be hurt by the pandemic-related lockdowns being considered once more in several countries as outbreaks worsen.

At closing bell on Monday, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down some 509.72 points, a 1.84% drop, finishing at 27,147.70. The S&P 500, which follows the world's top companies, fell by 38.41 points, a 1.16% drop to finish at 3,281.06. The Nasdaq Composite, which heavily tracks info tech companies, fell by some 14.48 points, a 0.13% drop to finish at 10,778.80. The market decline is [being largely driven by fears that a new social lockdown](#) being considered in the United Kingdom could bring economic activity there to a screeching halt. [Experts warned on Monday that unless the country's course is altered](#), in a month's time the UK could be recording 50,000 new COVID-19 cases per day.

Accordingly, it was travel companies like Carnival, Southwest Airlines and Delta Air Lines that led the decline, losing 6.4%, 5.6%, and 8.7% of their stock value, respectively.

Meanwhile, continued debate over [a new COVID-19 economic relief bill in Congress](#) could be put on hold in the wake of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's death. US President Donald Trump said on Monday he [intended to eschew Democrats' calls to wait](#) until after the November presidential election to nominate a replacement, and [could pick a candidate for the nation's top court](#) as early as Saturday.

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Photos: Mi-17 Assault Choppers in Chinese PLA Markings Spotted at Russian Factory
by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

A Chinese TV program recently showed footage from a Russian helicopter factory that included several Mi-171Sh (NATO reporting name "Hip") helicopters painted in People's Liberation Army (PLA) livery. The potential new order of assault helicopters raises many questions about their intended use.

On September 15, [China's Phoenix TV ran a segment](#) about the Ulan-Ude Aviation Plant's long history of building helicopters for the PLA. However, the segment featured some interesting snapshots, including several Mi-171Sh helicopters painted in an unusual PLA scheme. Beijing buying Mi-17s is by no means new: various versions of the highly successful Russian helicopter continue to find steady use across the Chinese armed forces. However, China [last took delivery of a batch of Mi-171Sh helicopters in 2014](#), when its contract with Russian military tech exporter Rosoboronexport for 165 of the Mi-171Sh ended.

Further, the Mi-171Sh is an assault version of the Mi-17 made to match the weapons capabilities of the Mi-24 gunship (NATO reporting name "Hind"), and China has in recent years introduced its own indigenously made helicopters capable of filling this role, such as the Changhe Z-8G/L [and the Harbin Z-20](#). Why the PLA would need to buy assault helicopters abroad at this point is not known, but Chinese military aerospace observer [Andreas Rupprecht](#) [has suggested](#) it might simply be a stopgap measure to fill an immediate need while domestic production of the other choppers ramps up.

The Drive also suggested they could be for some kind of special operations forces, which would also explain their unique gray paint scheme. PLA Army Aviation tends to paint its helicopters either dark green or tan, but the colors of the choppers seen in the video look more like naval livery.

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Photos: Paleontologists Uncover New, 125 Million-Year-Old Dinosaur Species in China

Paleontologists digging in China have discovered a new, burrowing dinosaur species believed to have existed 125 million years ago.

The fossils were uncovered in a geological formation known as the Lujiatun Beds in Jinzhou, a city in the central-west Liaoning province of China. The Lujiatun Beds are the oldest layer of the larger Yixian Formation, which is known for its preserved fossils.

Scientists believe the fossils were buried by a volcanic eruption that trapped the creatures while they were resting at the bottoms of their burrows.

"These animals were quickly covered by fine sediment while they were still alive or just after their death," Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences paleontologist Pascal Godefroit explained to the Independent.

Godefroit also noted that there were no signs of feathers on the bones and that they were "incredibly well-preserved," given that they are about 125 million years old.

The scientists have named the new species *Changmiania liaoningensis*; *Changmiania* means "eternal sleep" in Chinese.

Researchers believe the dinosaur was part of the Ornithomimid family of herbivores and lived during the Cretaceous period, defined as the time frame between 145.5 and 65.5 million years ago.

The dinosaur is believed to have been around 1.2 meters long, with strong hind legs that would have made it a fast runner.

"However, certain characteristics of the skeleton suggest that *Changmiania* could dig burrows, much like rabbits do today," Godefroit explained.

"Its neck and forearms are very short but robust, its shoulder blades are characteristic of burrowing vertebrates, and the top of its snout is shaped like a shovel," he added.

"So we believe that both *Changmiania* specimens were trapped by the volcanic eruption when they were resting at the bottom of their burrows 125 million years ago."

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CDC Removes Revised Guidance on Airborne COVID-19 Transmission in Yet Another Edit

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Monday deleted guidance it posted on its website Friday stating that COVID-19 airborne transmissions are “thought to be the main way the virus spreads.”

On Friday, the CDC posted a guideline stating that COVID-19 can transmit over a distance greater than 6 feet via airborne transmission. In previous guidance, the CDC has stated that the virus mostly spreads through large droplets at a close range.

"There is growing evidence that droplets and airborne particles can remain suspended in the air and be breathed in by others, and travel distances beyond 6 feet (for example, during choir practice, in restaurants, or in fitness classes). In general, indoor environments without good ventilation increase this risk," the agency said in guidance [transcribed by CNN on Sunday](#), which has since been removed from the CDC's website. The deleted guidance also stated that people should “use air purifiers to help reduce airborne germs in indoor spaces.”

The CDC on Monday deleted language from its website which stated it is “possible” for the virus to spread via airborne transmission, despite the fact that many health experts have stated that the virus can be spread in that manner.

“A draft version of proposed changes to these recommendations was posted in error to the agency's official website. CDC is currently updating its recommendations regarding airborne transmission of SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19). Once this process has been completed, the update language will be posted,” [the CDC wrote on its web page](#).

Jay Butler, the CDC's deputy director for infectious disease, said the Friday update was posted erroneously.

“Unfortunately an early draft of a revision went up without any technical review,” he said, [the Washington Post reported](#).

Currently, the CDC guidance states that the virus is thought to spread “between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet)” and “through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks.”

For months, however, public health experts have repeatedly stated that the novel coronavirus can also be [transmitted through tiny droplets](#) known as aerosols and have urged health agencies to acknowledge this mode of transmission.

In July, 239 scientists [wrote a letter](#) urging the World Health Organization and other public health bodies to be more transparent about the possibility that people can catch the virus from droplets floating in the air.

"The current guidance from numerous international and national bodies focuses on hand washing, maintaining social distancing, and droplet precautions," the scientists wrote in the letter, published in the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases*.

The latest news comes after the CDC on August 24 published guidance stating that it wasn't necessary to test people without COVID-19 symptoms for the disease, even if they had been

exposed to the virus. However, it appears as though the CDC had also [reversed this guideline by September 18](#).

The updated guidance reads: "Due to the significance of asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic transmission, this guidance further reinforces the need to test asymptomatic persons, including close contacts of a person with documented SARS-CoV-2 infection."

Last week, the New York Times published a [blockbuster article](#) after speaking with unnamed Trump administration officials who claimed that the CDC had written the guidance about not testing asymptomatic people without input from the agency's director, Robert Redfield.

In an interview last Thursday with the Times, Adm. Brett Giroir, the administration's testing coordinator and an assistant secretary at the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), said that the CDC wrote the original testing guidance referenced above, but that he "coordinated editing and input from the scientific and medical members" of the White House Coronavirus Task Force.

Giroir also said that the draft of the guidance was revised around 20 times over the course of a month, with comments from Redfield and Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Anthony Fauci, among other health officials.

Current and former senior health officials also told the Times that political appointees at the HHS have asked the CDC to revise and delay weekly COVID-19 reports that do not reflect positively on the Trump administration.

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Kentucky Police Initiate State of Emergency Ahead of Grand Jury Decision on Breonna Taylor Case

The Louisville Metropolitan Police Department (LMPD) ordered a state of emergency on Monday for Louisville, Kentucky, ahead of a highly-anticipated grand jury decision on the Breonna Taylor case.

In the LMPD declaration, personnel were informed that all officers would be required to be present and would not be allowed to take time-off in the coming days.

"Effective immediately, all off-days are hereby canceled and vacation requests that have not already been submitted and approved are canceled until further notice," reads an LMPD statement sent to all personnel.

Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron two weeks ago announced that a grand jury would hear details surrounding the police shooting of Taylor and that an announcement would be made when the jury reached a decision.

Last week, WAVE 3 News also reported the federal buildings in downtown Louisville were going to be shut down this week, with federal forces protecting the building.

Taylor, a 26-year-old Black woman, was shot to death in her own home in March by three plainclothes narcotics officers conducting a no-knock warrant.

Multiple demonstrations have taken place in the last few months, with protesters demanding that the officers involved in Taylor's shooting be brought to justice. In June, the LMPD fired one

of the three officers in the case, Brett Hankison, for displaying "extreme indifference to the value of human life" when he fired ten bullets into Taylor's apartment. The other two officers have been reassigned to administrative duties.

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Photos: Over 200 Whales Stranded on Australian Sandbars, 25 Left Dead

At least 25 whales have died in a remote bay on the Australian island of Tasmania, officials revealed Monday, with more than 200 other whales currently stranded.

According to Tasmania's environment department, the whales became stuck on a sandbar in Macquarie Harbor, which is on the island's west coast. Officials are currently in the process of trying to rescue 250 more stranded whales, AFP reported.

Two large groups of whales are currently stranded on sandbars inside the harbor, Nic Dekka of Tasmania's Parks and Wildlife Service reported.

"They are in water, but it's very difficult to see how many of those whales are deceased or what condition they're in," he told reporters Strahan, a town in Tasmania.

"The main pod that's stranded is on a sandbar that's about 100 meters off the Macquarie Heads boat ramp, and there's a further pod on another sandbar several hundred meters further out from there," Dekka added. A pod refers to a social group of whales that travel together.

The stranded creatures are believed to pilot whales, which belong to the genus *Globicephala*. However, the species has not yet been confirmed by the environment department.

Police and marine experts are planning to launch a rescue mission on Tuesday morning local time.

"In terms of the tides, when we start making an effort tomorrow it will be with an outgoing tide, so that'll be in our favor, but obviously tides go up and come down so we'll be aiming to make the most of the windows that we have," Dekka explained.

Although mass whale strandings are not uncommon in Tasmania, there are far more whales involved in this incident than usual.

According to [AFP](#), authorities may convene a network of volunteers to help with the rescue effort.

"When we start making an effort tomorrow, it will be with an outward-going tide, so that will be in our favor, but obviously tides go up and down so we'll be aiming to make the most of the situation," [Dekka told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation](#).

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'Inflection Point': Social Victories Imperiled by Potential Supreme Court Conservative Supermajority

The death of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg raises the possibility of a thoroughly conservative court that will not defend the civil liberties won through decades of struggle, Dr. Gerald Horne, Moores Professor of History and African American Studies at the University of Houston, told Radio Sputnik's By Any Means Necessary Monday.

"The problem now is you have a [US President Donald] Trump base, 63 million-strong, represented in the US Senate by Mitch McConnell, who in 2016 said a president should not be allowed to make a Supreme Court appointment [in an election year] ... and he's done a 180-degree reversal with regards to Mr. Trump, who may only have a few months left in his term. And I think what this illustrates is there are basically two societies in the US of America," [Horne told hosts Sean Blackmon and Jacquie Luqman.](#)

In 2016, McConnell refused to hold a Senate hearing for Merrick Garland, who was nominated by then-US President Barack Obama at the time to fill Justice Antonin Scalia's seat after his death, claiming that the president should not be allowed to choose a Supreme Court justice during an election year.

Horne warned that with the historical counterpoint of the Soviet Union and its socialist allies gone from the world stage, the capitalist imperialist government in Washington, DC, has virtually free reign to destroy many of the socioeconomic gains it awarded thanks to that external pressure. The possibility of a 6-3 conservative majority on the US Supreme Court "will basically lead to inevitably, inextricably a collapse, an erosion of affirmative action, a further erosion of the Voting Rights Act, a further attack on women's reproductive freedom."

"We're at an inflection point," he added.

Following Ginsburg's death, Trump and McConnell have vowed to attempt to fill Ginsburg's seat before the November 3 presidential election or before the presidential inauguration on January 20.

With a seat vacant on the Supreme Court, it will be the president's responsibility to nominate a replacement.

"Americans reelected our majority in 2016 and expanded it in 2018 because we pledged to work with President Trump and support his agenda, particularly his outstanding appointments to the federal judiciary. Once again, we will keep our promise," McConnell said in a statement following Ginsburg's death, [NPR reported](#). "President Trump's nominee will receive a vote on the floor of the United States Senate."

On Monday morning on ["Fox & Friends."](#) Trump said he would announce his nominee, who he has said will be a woman, on Friday or Saturday this week.

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Trump Could Face Criminal Tax Probe Based on 'Public Allegations Alone' - Manhattan DA
by [Evan Craighead](#)

The district attorney's office for the Manhattan borough of New York City, New York, has suggested in new court filings that US President Donald Trump could be the subject of a tax fraud probe, as "mountainous" public allegations of misconduct exist regarding 45 and his businesses.

Lawyers working for the office of Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. issued a new filing in the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit on Monday, arguing that a grand jury probe could be initiated solely based on misstatements and other public allegations about the president's finances.

"Even if the grand jury were testing the truth of public allegations alone, such reports, taken together, fully justify the scope of the grand jury subpoena," the lawyers wrote in court [documents obtained by Reuters](#). The outlet highlighted that the document did not directly incriminate Trump or his businesses.

This comes just four days before Vance is [scheduled to deliver oral arguments](#) to the appeals court for a subpoena of Trump's financial records, which are in the possession of his accounting firm, Mazars USA.

Trump's legal team [has previously argued](#) that the release of his records poses a "quintessential type of irreparable harm," despite jurors being sworn to secrecy.

Furthermore, 45 expressed to reporters on August 20 that Vance's ongoing pursuit of his personal financial records is a "continuation of the most disgusting witch hunt in the history of our country," referring to special counsel Robert Mueller's probe into possible Russian interference in the 2016 election.

"Let's get papers from 10 years, every paper, every deal he's ever signed. Maybe we can find where some lawyer made a mistake where they didn't dot an 'I,' where they didn't put a comma down some place, and then we can do something," Trump said. "This is a disgrace, and this should never ever be allowed to happen again."

Nevertheless, he predicted that the case will "probably end up back in the Supreme Court," which previously ruled that a sitting US president could [not avoid criminal investigations](#). With the [Friday death](#) of US Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who [previously bashed Trump](#) for his failure to publicly release his tax returns, Trump is expected to soon nominate a new Supreme Court justice.

"I will be putting forth a nominee next week. [It will be a woman.](#)" he said during a Saturday campaign rally in Fayetteville, North Carolina. "I think it should be a woman, because I actually like women much more than men."

The appointment of Trump's nominee would likely deepen conservatives' majority in the Supreme Court to 6-3, increasing the chances of the court ruling in his favor if the case regarding his finances progresses to that level.

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Photo: NYPD Officer Charged With Allegedly Acting as Agent of China
by [Evan Craighead](#)

Baimadajie Angwang, a 33-year-old community affairs liaison for the New York City Police Department (NYPD), has been arrested by federal authorities after allegedly carrying out work as a Chinese government agent for six years.

The criminal complaint, [filed on Monday in the Eastern District of New York](#), claimed that, since August 2014, Angwang "did knowingly act in the United States as an agent of a foreign government, to wit: the People's Republic of China, without prior notification to the Attorney General of the United States, as required by law."

The federal probe into the connection between Angwang, a Tibetan national, and at least two Beijing officials at the Chinese Consulate in New York determined that the cop, "while acting at the direction and control" of the Beijing officials, "reported on the activities of ethnic Tibetans, and others, in the New York metropolitan area to the Consulate."

Authorities claim the 33-year-old also "spotted and assessed potential ethnic Tibetan intelligence sources in the New York metropolitan area and beyond, and ... used his official position in the NYPD to provide Consulate officials access to senior NYPD officials through invitations to official NYPD events."

The Department of Justice claimed in a September 2020 court filing that Baimadajie Angwang (far left) did "knowingly act in the United States as an agent of a foreign government, to wit: the People's Republic of China, without prior notification to the Attorney General of the United States, as required by law."

In addition to his role with the NYPD's 111th Precinct in the NYC borough of Queens, Angwang concurrently serves as a civil affairs specialist in the US Army Reserve.

He is also a former member of the US Marine Forces Reserve and [served a total of three tours](#) in Iraq and Afghanistan over his military career, according to a [since-hidden Facebook post](#) published by the New York Police Benevolent Association.

The NYPD officer now faces a slew of charges relating to wire fraud, acting as a foreign agent, obstruction of an official proceeding and making false statements.

Federal prosecutors have requested that Angwang be detained without bond, as he "presents a serious risk of flight," CNBC reported.

"As alleged in this federal complaint, Baimadajie Angwang violated every oath he took in this country. One to the United States, another to the U.S. Army, and a third to this Police Department," NYPD Police Commissioner Dermot Shea [told CBS New York](#).

"From the earliest stages of this investigation, the NYPD's Intelligence and Internal Affairs bureaus worked closely with the FBI's Counterintelligence Division to make sure this individual would be brought to justice."

If convicted of all charges, the 33-year-old faces a maximum sentence of 55 years in prison.

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Swedish Space Corporation to Cease Assisting Chinese Companies Operate Satellites
by [Evan Craighead](#)

Beijing will soon lose the ability to access its weather and earth-monitoring satellites via ground station locations affiliated with the Swedish Space Corporation (SSC) in Sweden, Chile and Australia.

"The geopolitical situation has changed since these contracts were signed in the early 2000s. We have to assess where we can do business and it's harder for us to make that assessment regarding the Chinese market now," Anni Bolenius, SSC's head of communications, [told Reuters on Monday](#), noting that the contracts cover weather and earth-monitoring satellites. The company's Chinese contracts also provided Beijing with "support" for manned missions, according to Reuters.

The state-owned company expressed that it will not seek to renew contracts with Beijing, which has been allowed to access Chinese satellites via SSC antenna locations in Sweden, Chile and Australia since at least 2011.

However, specific end dates for the current contracts were not provided.

SSC noted that it would not enter deals with new Chinese businesses either.

The Swedish Defense Research Agency, which operates under the state's Ministry of Defense, [told public broadcaster Sveriges Television](#) in January 2019 that the country's normally civilian cooperation with Beijing may have shifted to Chinese military control.

"Organizationally, the Chinese space program is to a very, very large extent militarized," researcher John Rydqvist argued, as reported by the South China Morning Post (SCMP).

At the time, the [SSC noted](#) that "SSC has customers in China within civilian functions such as weather, Earth observation, and space physics since the beginning of 2000."

"Data from such satellites are used for a wide range of civilian purposes and is prevalent all across society," the company detailed, "for example, to analyze climate change and its consequences and to better utilize natural resources such as forests, water and agriculture as well as for Crisis Response and Disaster Relief where immediate access to reliable information is crucial."

"As a Swedish, 100 percent government-owned company, if there is at all any doubt that what you are doing with China could enhance military capability, it doesn't matter if you can go anywhere else – you're not supposed to do it," Rydqvist told the SCMP.

"It's not good for Sweden, and it could potentially be problematic in our important security cooperation with the rest of the EU and the US. If there's the least amount of doubt, don't do it." Swedish Institute of International Affairs analyst Viking Bohman argued to the SCMP that "Sweden is waking up to its China challenge" and that the defense researchers' warning came about as part of a concerted international pushback against China.

"When [European countries are limiting Huawei's access to their markets](#), Swedish authorities begin wondering if they should do the same," Bohman expressed in January 2019, following the

launch of a state probe into the safety of Huawei Technologies as it related to 5G network infrastructure.

However, Anders Ygeman, the Swedish minister for energy and digital development, [declared in May 2020](#) that he "sees no problem about [telecommunications company] Tele2 using Huawei when Swedish customers surf on 5G," according to the Swedish TT News Agency.